

# BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

6901 Charles Street Towson, MD • 21204-3711

November 24, 2009

Ms. Diana Lopez  
Sam Adams Alliance  
20 N. Wacker Drive  
Suite 3330  
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: *Your Maryland Public Information Act Application*  
My File No.: PIA-10-26

Dear Ms. Lopez:

I am in receipt of your facsimile transmittal dated October 30, 2009 requesting public records of the Baltimore County Public Schools. Your letter is being treated as a request for records subject to the Maryland Public Information Act, MD. CODE ANN., STATE GOV'T §§10-611 to -628 (2004) (the "Act") and Superintendent's Rule 2373. A copy of the Superintendent's Rule is enclosed for your information.

Specifically, you seek the following public records of the school system for the time period January 1, 2004 to October 30, 2009:

1. "Contracts between the school system and all lobbyists, lobbying organizations, and lobbying firms; additionally any documentation of relationships with individuals or groups that advocate on behalf of or representing [sic.] the school district or school board."

To the writer's knowledge and belief, the Board of Education does not have a contractual relationship with any lobbyists, lobbying organizations, or lobbying firms. This is not a denial of your request.

2. "Disclosure of membership to any lobbying organizations (for example, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education)."

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) is a membership organization to which all local boards of education belong; it is not a "lobbying organization." Please clarify your request.

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3. "Check register data for all payouts, checks, or other disbursements to those lobbyist(s)."

No records are believed to be responsive to your request. This is not a denial of your request.

4. "All e-mail and/or other written correspondence between the school system and the lobbyist(s), and between the members of the school board and those lobbyist(s)."

No records are believed to be responsive to your request. This is not a denial of your request.

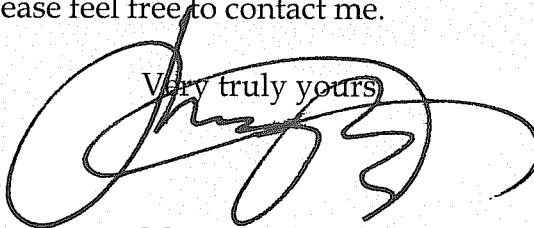
5. "Copies of invitations to any and all legislative receptions that have been sponsored, funded or otherwise underwritten in whole or in part by the school system, along with a breakdown of costs incurred for those receptions."

A search for the records requested has been initiated.

Pursuant to Superintendent's Rule 2373, if the search and preparation of responsive documents exceeds two hours, you will be charged a fee for the search for the records requested, preparing the records for inspection, and for reproducing the records you request; no fee is assessed for the first two hours.

You will be asked to pay for the initial search fees prior to your inspection of the records. I will notify you when the documents are ready for inspection. At the time of your inspection of the records, you may identify the documents for copying. Pursuant to Rule 2373, you will be charged a fee for the search for the records requested, preparing the records for inspection, and for reproducing the records you request. Further, you will be asked to submit payment for staff time and copies prior to the documents being mailed to you. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Margaret-Ann F. Howie  
General Counsel

MAH:pc